

**DELTA TOWNSHIP  
PARKS, RECREATION AND CEMETERIES COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**April 1, 2004 – REGULAR MEETING**

**1. CALL TO ORDER – CHAIRMAN KEEL**

Chairman Keel called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Keel, Jones, Root, and Wilson

Absent: Thorburn

Staff: Director Dick Benkert

Guests: Larry Brunette, Recreation Supervisor Mike Conlin

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 4, 2004**

The minutes were approved as presented.

**3. ANNOUNCEMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Chairman Keel requested that this item be postponed to the May meeting as he would prefer that all Commissioners be present for the election.

**5. SPECIAL EVENTS – Benkert**

**A. Community Garage Sale**

This event was held Saturday, March 13 at the Community Center from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. All 30 tables are reserved with a waiting list as well. This year we lifted some of the restrictions on what could be sold, banning only food and firearms. There were 454 shoppers counted.

**B. Mother/Son Dance**

Monday, March 22 at the Lansing Sheraton Hotel. There were 75 couples registered plus 11 additional children. The number of participants is up from last year. The gift this year was mini radios with the Township logo. The DJ was the same one that helped us out at the last minute for the Daddy/Daughter. Thanks to Al and Carol Wilson and Dick and Roe Benkert.

**C. Easter Fun Carnival**

To be held on Friday, April 2 at the Community Center. There are over 200 registered now. There are two sessions: 5-6:30 and 7-8:30 p.m. Many volunteers are needed!

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D. Family Fun Night

Friday, April 23 at the Community Center. There will be a puppet show featuring the Odd Bodkins life-sized puppets. Registration numbers are low now but flyers will be going out soon.

**6. STAFF REPORTS**

A. Waverly Senior Coordinator – Winegar – Report distributed to the Commission (attached)

- ☐ Mary has been out on medical leave. Sidney has basically been running everything and has been doing a great job.

B. Recreation Programmer – Sobczyk – Report distributed to the Commission (attached)

- ☐ Kathy has been working on soccer referees, softball scorekeepers, and had a Pacers meeting as well as continuing to work on Delta Rocks! Scorekeepers are needed. Kathy has a major league soccer official from East Lansing to run the referee clinics.

C. Recreation Activities Coordinator – Kellogg – Report distributed to the Commission (attached)

- ☐ Class registration is going on now for spring term and the summer term classes are all set. Lots of work at this time will be devoted to Delta Rocks!

D. Recreation Supervisor – Conlin – Report distributed to the Commission

- ☐ A meeting was held with Waverly Schools at the one-year anniversary of our partnership. Attending were Richard Watkins, Dick Benkert, Mike Conlin, Barb Kellogg and Kathy Sobczyk, and from Waverly Dr. Pillar and Jackie Blodgett. The meeting went very well. We now have a meeting scheduled for May 6 to meet directly with the principals from all the schools as we have some concerns about communication regarding facility scheduling. Mike will also be attending the Waverly School Board Meeting to briefly report on how things are going. Calvin Jones announced that Delta Township and Waverly Schools were honored by the Regional Economic Development Team with a Certificate of Recognition for this partnership.
- ☐ We have over 650 children playing in soccer and our coaches meeting was last week. The 4-on-4 league seems to be gaining in popularity. We still have two teams without coaches. Games begin April 17.
- ☐ Adult softball registration is going on now. Thinking back to many years ago, there was a long line when the office opened for spots, now they trickle in. Other Communities have experienced less pressure as well. We have relaxed some rules to make it easier for teams.

E. Director's Report – Benkert

- ☐ The restroom project for Grand Woods Park is out for bids. They will be installed just east of the blue playground, close to the road. It will be similar to the restrooms at Erickson. Also, a large sign will be placed nearby which will have a park overview map. Construction will begin this summer.
- ☐ Dick has been conducting interviews for seasonals this week. Only two are returning.
- ☐ Dick has been working on the Emerald Ash Borer problem. The trees have all been cut. There will be an application process for residents to receive reimbursement for tree replacement.

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**7. OTHER BUSINESS**

A. Fireworks

Letters went out a couple of weeks ago and we expect to meet last year's funds. Thanks to Sunny for designing the tri-fold flyer which hopefully will help us gain more sponsors.

B. CIP

The list has not changed much from last year. Moved by Wilson, supported by Jones to accept the list as sent to the Commission (attached).

C. Parks and Recreation Staff

One of our long time employees, Dick Cross, has accepted a position as an Engineering Technician with the Township's Engineering Department. It is an advancement for him. It was an extremely hard decision for him to make. He will remain with us for about a month as we transfer responsibilities. He will still help with this year's fireworks and the festival. The decision was made to fill this position at an 04 level instead of the 06 level that Dick was. This will allow time for existing staff to develop the skills needed in the level 6 position. We have been assured that when the time comes that 06 level will be available to us in the budget. The Commission will send Dick a letter to thank him for all his hard work over the years.

D. Players Club Golf Course

It came to our attention a couple of weeks ago that the course will not be opened this year. A meeting was held with the owner to see what could be done. A tentative arrangement was made, and then we met with the Township Board. It's something we'd have to jump on now if we were going to do it. It would've been more likely to work if we'd known about it sooner. While it could be an amazing opportunity, at this point we're leaving the situation alone as we could not in good conscience take this on with such a short time for preparation.

**8. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Jones, supported by Wilson that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Benkert *for*  
Barb Thorburn, Secretary  
Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries Commission